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7 April 1965

OCI No. 0558/65

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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

DEVELOPMENTS IN COUNTRIES ON THE COUNTERINSURGENCY LIST

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Current Intelligence

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Developments in Countries on the
Counterinsurgency List

1. Congo (Leopoldville)

The government's military position has brightened considerably in the northeast, and moves are under way to improve the situation around Lake Tanganyika.

The operation in the northeast has been stopped temporarily to permit the government to consolidate its hold on border towns, but plans are to advance soon against other rebel strongholds. In Watsa, Col. Hoare's troops are being reinforced and reorganized for their next advance westward to link up with the forces at Paulis. Their base of operations now has been moved from Bunia to Faradje, and they are consolidating their hold on the major roads and towns. Government forces in the northeast now are well supplied with sizable quantities of captured arms, ammunition, vehicles, and petroleum, and a recent shipment of boots has resolved the most pressing logistics problem. Government elements have patrolled as far as 10 miles outside of Watsa.

Sizable pockets of rebels remain in the northeast, but only sporadic attacks have been reported. The largest concentration of rebels remains southwest of Watsa, but as yet there are no indications of centralized control or of an impending counterattack. In general, the native population now is antirebel and welcomes government forces.

The forces at Paulis continue to patrol the immediate area while preparing to move to key towns on the roads leading from the Sudanese border

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to rebel concentrations farther west. The Paulis garrison has extended its control on roads to the north and east against spotty rebel resistance.

Rebel activity continues high, however, in the area northeast of Bumba--240 miles downriver from Stanleyville. Some 4,000 rebels are reportedly massing at Buta with plans to attack toward the northwest to secure the strategically located town of Yakoma.

The security situation continues to improve around Stanleyville and in the vast region inland from the left bank of the Congo River. Government forces from Stanleyville continue successfully to extend their operations down the banks of the river, and no important attacks have been reported on the city for several weeks. Farther west, rebels are reportedly surrendering to government forces engaged in clearing operations along the Boende-Ikela-Stanleyville road.

In the eastern Congo, the security situation is improving. Rebel activity south of Bukavu has diminished, and some missionaries have returned to their posts in the Bukavu-Uvira valley. Additional mercenaries and ANC personnel are being sent to Uvira to reinforce the garrison there. Garrisons along the major roads southwest of Bukavu are reportedly calm following some rebel harassment last week.

Farther south at Fizi, the rebels recently increased their military pressures on ANC positions along the north Katangan border. This rebel-held area remains impenetrable to the ANC. Albertville on Lake Tanganyika is being reinforced with additional mercenaries, and some unreliable ANC troops have recently been sent home. The Congolese naval patrol on the lake has also reported good hunting, and has probably reduced the waterborne arms smuggling into the Congo. (MAP)

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2. Laos

The military situation remains relatively quiet, with no major actions reported. Some skirmishing between government and Communist forces occurred in the region southeast of Thakhek. The Communists may have been testing government positions following the recent troop rebellion in Thakhek.

North of the Plaine des Jarres, Communist forces are continuing their pressure against rightist guerrilla and regular forces along Route 6. The government forces, reinforced during the past few months, appear to be stiffening their resistance.

Meanwhile, the Laotian Air Force T-28 strikes continue against Communist supply lines and military installations. There are increasing indications that these strikes--which have continued unabated since early last summer--are adversely affecting Communist morale.

3. Latin America (General)

Communist propaganda in support of North Vietnam has become more strident throughout Latin America and, in some countries, may inspire violent incidents, such as attacks on US embassies and other installations.

Lately, a marked change in the policy of the Guatemalan Communist Party has been noted. It appears to have dropped its peaceful revolutionary efforts and is cooperating with the Cuban-supported guerrillas led by Marco Antonio Yon Sosa.

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Similarly, the Venezuelan Communist Party is trying to entice some leftist-extremist groups into a National Liberation Front to serve as a political umbrella for the Cuban-backed Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN).

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Uruguayan-based Leonel Brizola, the extremist brother-in-law of former Brazilian President Goulart, is also reported to be setting up a guerrilla warfare coordinating committee in Montevideo to facilitate the flow of trainees and money to and from Cuba.

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4. Colombia

The army reportedly has succeeded in its campaign to seize control of the Communist-dominated region of El Pato, about midway between Neiva and Villavicienio on the Huila-Meta border (see map). Beginning on 25 March, the army made two penetrations of the area, using paratroops and helicopter-borne reinforcements. Army spokesmen claim to have captured more than 100 prisoners and to have inflicted an undisclosed number of casualties on the Communist-bandit defenders of the region. The objectives of the operation, as stated by an armed forces communiqué, are to break the Communists' hold on El Pato and to return to their homes more than 200 families which had been driven out by bandits.

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Communist involvement with bandits in El Pato was further confirmed by the discovery by the police of thousands of propaganda leaflets in several major cities. The army also confiscated similar propaganda in El Pato. Some of the propaganda consisted of reprints of a broadcast from Moscow praising the "guerrilla war in Colombia" and reproducing some of the statements made in Moscow during Colombian Solidarity Week last January.

The most important antisocial activity continued to be kidnaping. Several suspected kidnapers were arrested in Caldas, Antioquia, and Santander, including one employee of the security police (DAS) in Medellin. The latter appears to have been making visas for kidnapers so they could leave the country. The most prominent victim, former cabinet minister Harold Eder, kidnaped 20 March, has not been returned despite the army's extensive campaign to capture his abductors.

Kidnaping has become popular among urban criminals, possibly because of the publicity given it in rural areas. Many citizens of Bogota and other cities have reported kidnap threats to local police, and some have reported kidnap attempts. Some kidnapings have occurred though many fewer than threatened.

5. Ecuador

The Executive Committee of the dominant hard-line wing of the Ecuadorean Communist Party has reorganized the work of the wing. The Ecuadoreans are increasingly suspicious of Cuba as a pro-Soviet revisionist stronghold. Persons trained primarily in Communist China have now been placed in charge of continued guerrilla warfare preparations and secret work among Indians. These activists receive salaries of \$60 per month plus some expense money--remuneration equivalent to that of an average Ecuadorean school teacher.

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6. Guatemala

A series of bombings took place in Guatemala City during the 31 March celebration of the anniversary of the military coup. The Communists and Castro-supported guerrillas reportedly chose that date to prove they were capable of active opposition in spite of the state of siege.

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7. Venezuela

Except for a few demonstrations in Caracas on 1 April, the Venezuelan situation was more noisy than active during the past week. The army continued to chase elusive guerrillas through the western mountains, and as usual every claim of victory by the army was subsequently denied by the guerrillas. Public opinion, difficult to measure in Venezuela, seemed to regard the current guerrilla activity as little more than propaganda dramatizing the obduracy of the opposition. The defamation of the government by the Capriles newspaper chain, at times bordering on sedition, continued during the week.

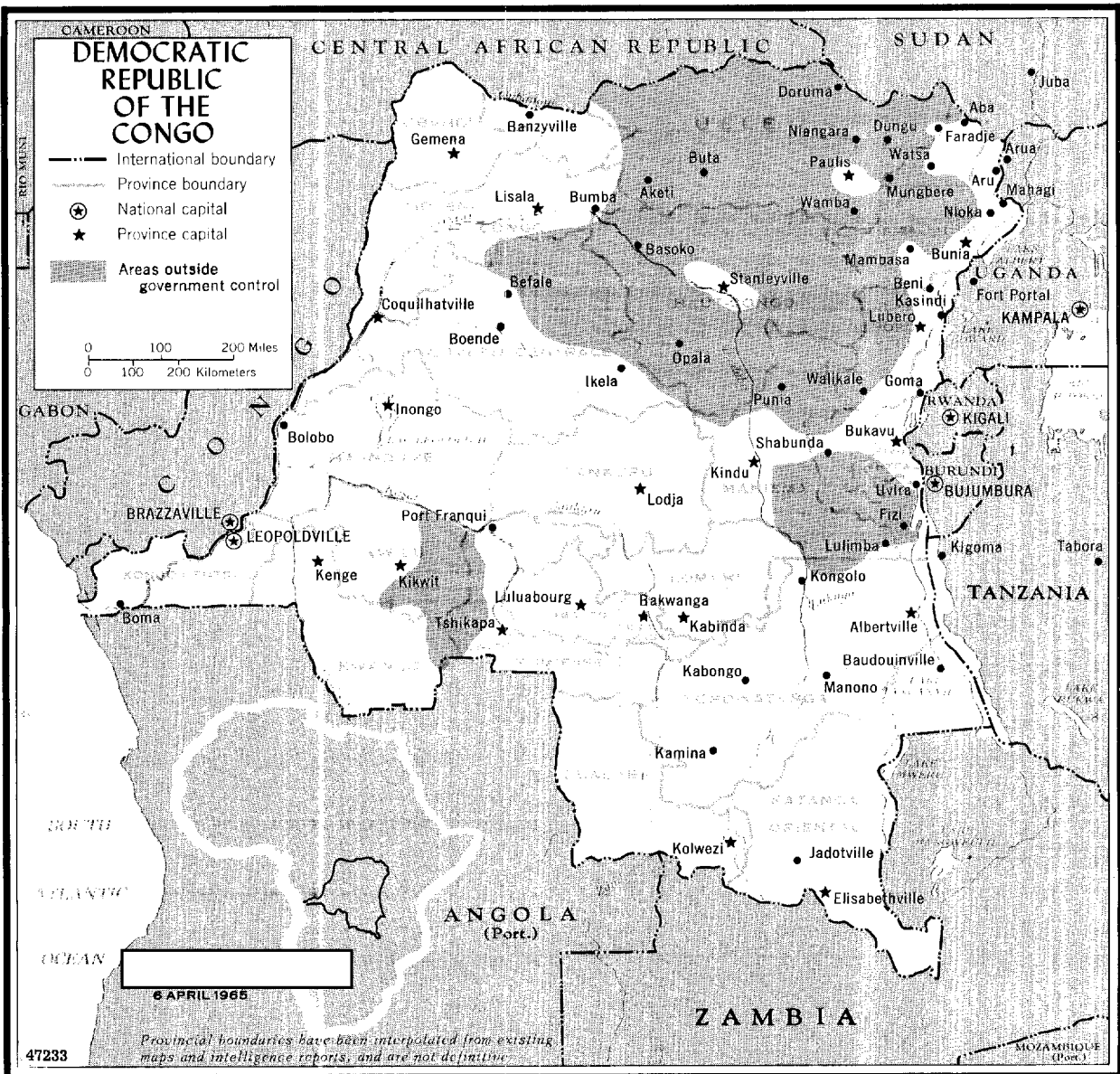
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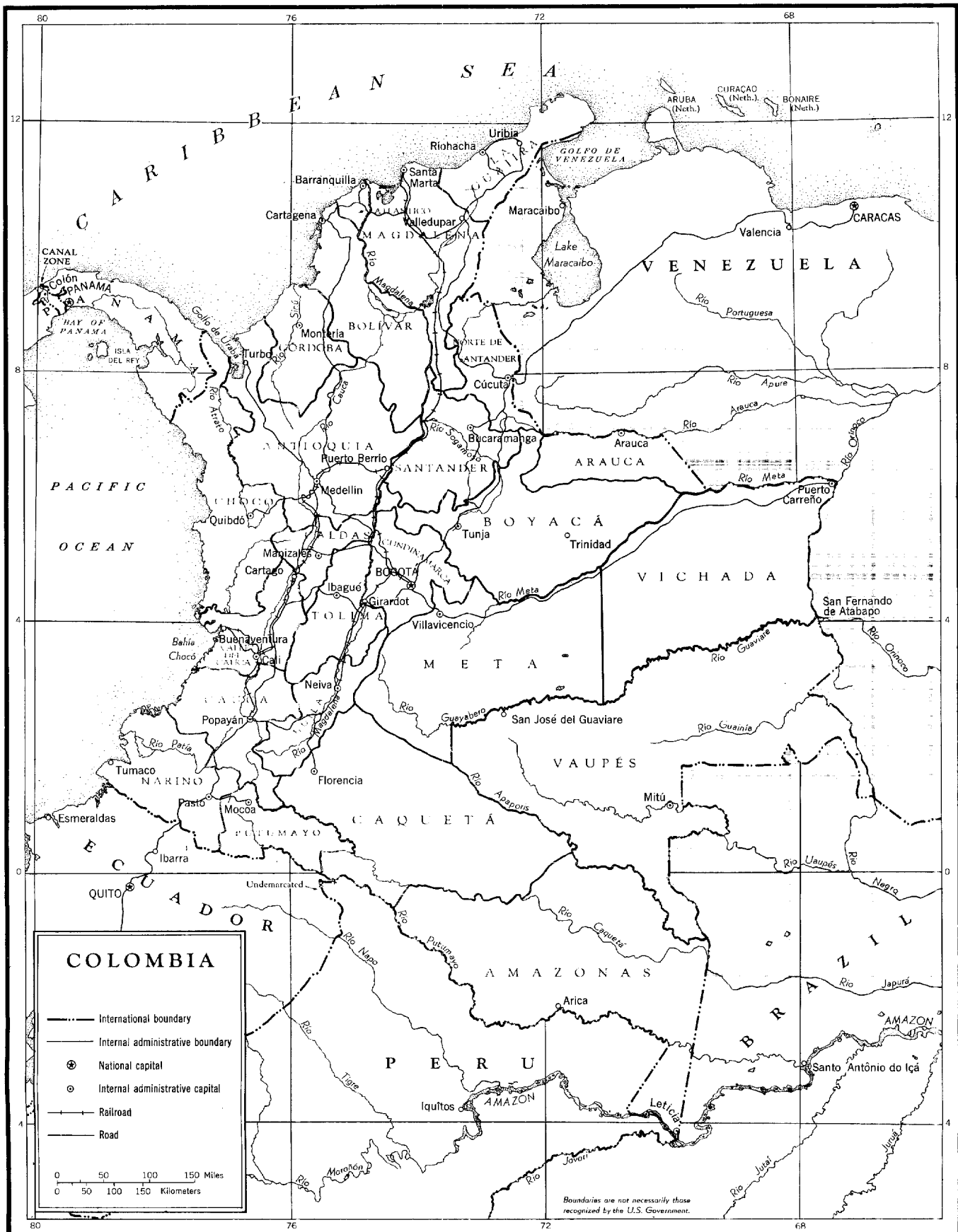
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